Pennsylvania Catholic Conference
Pennsylvania Attorney General/Auditor General/Treasurer CANDIDATE RESPONSES
General Election 2012
Updated 8.27.2012

As part of a statewide effort to educate people about candidates and their positions on issues important to Catholic voters, the Pennsylvania Catholic Conference (PCC) sent a questionnaire to candidates for statewide office to give them the opportunity to make their positions known on key specific issues. The answers are listed here for educational purposes only; the PCC does not endorse candidates for political office.

1. What is your position on legislation that would provide direct grants to parents to choose the schools that they believe are best suited for their children, including nonpublic schools?

ATTORNEY GENERAL
FREED (R) Support*
** I support allowing parents to send their children to a school of their choice.*
KANE (D) Did Not Respond

AUDITOR GENERAL
MAHER (R) Support*
**Proven voting record!*
DEPASQUALE (D) Did Not Respond

TREASURER
IREY VAUGHAN (R) Support*
** Funding should follow students to the school chosen by their parents. I believe that a student focus will improve education in Pennsylvania by creating competition and driving schools, both public and private, to improve in order to attract and retain students.*
MCCORD (D) Did Not Respond

2. What is your position increased funding for Educational Improvement Tax Credits (EITC) where the state budget includes an increase in public school funding?

ATTORNEY GENERAL
FREED (R) Support
KANE (D) Did Not Respond

AUDITOR GENERAL
MAHER (R) Support
DEPASQUALE (D) Did Not Respond

TREASURER
IREY VAUGHAN (R) Support*
** EITC is an extremely successful and important tool in improving education in Pennsylvania and providing educational choice for middle and low-income families.*
MCCORD (D) Did Not Respond

3. What is your position on legislation requiring an ultrasound be performed on a woman prior to abortion and that she be given the option of viewing this ultrasound?

ATTORNEY GENERAL
FREED (R) Support*
** I support the option, not the requirement of viewing the ultrasound.*
KANE (D) Did Not Respond

AUDITOR GENERAL
MAHER (R) Did Not Indicate
DEPASQUALE (D) Did Not Respond

TREASURER
IREY VAUGHAN (R) Support*

** Women in Pennsylvania who are seeking an abortion must have access to all the pertinent information on how their choice will affect their unborn child; therefore, such legislation is necessary.*

MCCORD (D) Did Not Respond

4. Which statement reflects your position most accurately?

   a. I do not oppose legalized abortion.
   b. I oppose legalized abortion in all circumstances.
   c. I oppose legalized abortion, except when the life of the mother is in danger.
   d. I oppose legalized abortion, except when the life of the mother is in danger or the pregnancy is a result of rape or incest.

ATTORNEY GENERAL
FREED (R) d.
KANE (D) Did Not Respond

AUDITOR GENERAL
MAHER (R) c.
DEPASQUALE (D) Did Not Respond

TREASURER
IREY VAUGHAN (R) b.*

** I believe that our laws should respect and protect the humanity of unborn children.*

MCCORD (D) Did Not Respond

5. What is your position on amending the Pennsylvania Constitution to define marriage as the union between one man and one woman?

ATTORNEY GENERAL
FREED (R) Support
KANE (D) Did Not Respond

AUDITOR GENERAL
MAHER (R) Support
DEPASQUALE (D) Did Not Respond

TREASURER
IREY VAUGHAN (R) Support*

** Marriage between one man and one woman is not only the natural basis for the family but the foundation of society. I support a constitutional amendment to protect the institution of marriage from alternative agendas.*

MCCORD (D) Did Not Respond

6. What is your position on legislation that would add state restrictions to existing federal prohibitions concerning the hiring of undocumented immigrants or the provision of healthcare or government services to the undocumented?

ATTORNEY GENERAL

FREED (R) Support
KANE (D) Did Not Respond

AUDITOR GENERAL
MAHER (R) Did Not Indicate*
**These are two separate questions.*
DEPASQUALE (D) Did Not Respond

TREASURER
IREY VAUGHAN (R) Support*
** We have a responsibility to the taxpayers we serve to ensure that both the laws of our nation and the Commonwealth are enforced and that those participating in government programs and services are eligible.*
MCCORD (D) Did Not Respond

7. What is your position on the death penalty?

ATTORNEY GENERAL
FREED (R) Support*
** As a prosecutor I believe that in certain situations it is an appropriate sentence for those who have taken someone else's life.*
KANE (D) Did Not Respond

AUDITOR GENERAL
MAHER (R) Support
DEPASQUALE (D) Did Not Respond

TREASURER
IREY VAUGHAN (R) Support*
** Pennsylvania law clearly defines death penalty criteria and provides for the necessary safeguards to protect the rights of individuals. It is both a necessary and appropriate penalty for society's most heinous crimes.*
MCCORD (D) Did Not Respond

8. What is your position on restoring state funding to the Homeowners Emergency Mortgage Assistance Program (HEMAP) which provides low-interest loans to homeowners facing possible foreclosure through no fault of their own?

ATTORNEY GENERAL
FREED (R) Support
KANE (D) Did Not Respond

AUDITOR GENERAL
MAHER (R) Support
DEPASQUALE (D) Did Not Respond

TREASURER
IREY VAUGHAN (R) Did Not Indicate*
** While HEMAP has been successful since its inception in 1983, Pennsylvania's current fiscal realities require leaders to make tough funding decisions in order to balance the budget. Funding for discretionary programs, like HEMAP, should be evaluated during each budget process.*
MCCORD (D) Did Not Respond

9. What is your position on legislation requiring employers to provide employee benefits to which they are morally opposed, for example, mandating coverage for contraceptives or benefits to same-sex partners of employees?

ATTORNEY GENERAL
FREED (R) Oppose
KANE (D) Did Not Respond

AUDITOR GENERAL
MAHER (R) Oppose
DEPASQUALE (D) Did Not Respond

TREASURER
IREY VAUGHAN (R) Oppose*

** I believe that it is unjust and contrary to the First Amendment to mandate that private employers, especially religious organizations, provide benefits to which they are morally opposed.*

MCCORD (D) Did Not Respond

10. Which statement reflects your position most accurately?

a. Religious childcare and pre-kindergarten providers should be subject to government review of educational content.

b. Religious childcare and pre-kindergarten providers should follow state standards for health and safety of children, but be free to determine their own educational content based on the teachings of their faith tradition.

c. Religious childcare and pre-k providers should be free from government regulation.

ATTORNEY GENERAL
FREED (R) b.
KANE (D) Did Not Respond

AUDITOR GENERAL
MAHER (R) b.
DEPASQUALE (D) Did Not Respond

TREASURER
IREY VAUGHAN (R) b.
MCCORD (D) Did Not Respond

11. What is your position on legislation that would restrict taxpayer funding of abortion in Pennsylvania's health insurance exchange created by the federal health care reform law?

ATTORNEY GENERAL
FREED (R) Support
KANE (D) Did Not Respond

AUDITOR GENERAL
MAHER (R) Support
DEPASQUALE (D) Did Not Respond

TREASURER
IREY VAUGHAN (R) Support
MCCORD (D) Did Not Respond

12. What is your position on legislation that forces health care providers to provide, pay for or refer for services contrary to their conscience for moral or religious reasons?

ATTORNEY GENERAL
FREED (R) Oppose
KANE (D) Did Not Respond

AUDITOR GENERAL
MAHER (R) Oppose
DEPASQUALE (D) Did Not Respond

TREASURER
IREY VAUGHAN (R) Oppose*

** Once again, I believe it is unjust as well as contrary to the First Amendment to mandate that private employers, especially religious organizations, provide benefits to which they are morally opposed.*

MCCORD (D) Did Not Respond